

Message Text

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CINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4311

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO, ES

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFS POLITICAL PARTIES ON
HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 4175

1. THE HONDURAN POLITICAL PARTIES WERE INVITED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON NOVEMBER 15 FOR BRIEFINGS ON THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR NEGOTIATIONS. THE LIBERAL PARTY, THE NATIONALIST PARTY, THE INNOVATION AND UNITY PARTY (PINU), THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT AND THE POPULAR PROGRESSIVE PARTY WERE INFORMED ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS AT DIFFERENT TIMES DURING THE DAY BY THE VICE MINISTER AND OTHER OFFICIALS.

2. THE LIBERAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVE, RAMON VILLEDA BERMUDEZ, GAVE A PRESS INTERVIEW AFTER THE MEETING AND SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE GOH INTENDS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON ALL POINTS UNDER CONSIDERATION RATHER THAN ON ONLY A FEW. HE COMMENTED THAT THE PREVIOUS LIBERAL PROPOSAL TO FORM A HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE ACTUAL TALKS BUT RATHER A DESIRE TO HAVE ALL SECTORS
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PARTICIPATE IN AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE

ADDED THAT THE PARTY HOPED FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE TALKS. A MEMBER OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY DELEGATION, ORLANDO LOZANO MARTINEZ, COMMENTED AFTER THE MEETING THAT THERE HAD BEEN A FULL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND THAT THE PARTY HAS ALWAYS BEEN READY TO DEFEND THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT: THE DECISION OF THE GOH TO HAVE THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER SECTORS OF SOCIETY BRIEFED ON THE NEGOTIATIONS STEMMED FROM THE INCREASING ATTACKS DIRECTED AT THE GOVERNMENT'S SILENCE ON THE SUBJECT. THE LIBERAL PARTY PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A HIGH LEVEL ADVISORY BODY, THE PINU CALL FOR A PLEBISCITE AND REPEATED CRITICISM IN THE PRESS, PARTICULARLY FROM LA NOTICIA, REACHED A POINT THAT CAUSED THE GOVERNMENT TO FEEL CONCERN ABOUT SUPPORT FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN ADDITION, THE TALKS END IN AN IMPASSE THE GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY DOES NOT WANT TO BE IN THE DIFFICULT POSITION OF REVEALING THE RESULT WITHOUT HAVING PREVIOUSLY INFORMED VARIOUS IMPORTANT SECTORS OF SOCIETY ABOUT THEIR DEVELOPMENT. IT SEEMS THAT THE GOH TENDS TO ADOPT MEASURES WITHOUT ADEQUATE EXPLANATION AND TO EVENTUALLY REACT TO HEAVY CRITICISM BY BELATED ATTEMPTS AT EXPLANATION. A MORE COHERENT AND SENSITIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY IS SOMETHING THAT THE GOVERNMENT SO OBVIOUSLY LACKS AND SO CLEARLY NEEDS.
SANCHEZ

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